

3/23/72

Dear Jerry,

When speaking to Jim yesterday, I asked if he had had any recent word from you. He said something to the effect that Kaiser had been in touch with you and through you wanted to reach Sylvia.

In the past, when it came to whom not to trust, Sylvia's judgement has sometimes been better than mine, as with Schiller et al. In this case, I am impelled to offer some unsolicited advice.

All Kaiser need do to reach Sylvia is pick up the phone. That he would go through another is to raise the question is he seeking to trade on the name of that other.

Also, he wrote about those he designated "critics"- without looking up any one serious one. There was a time to have seen Sylvia and others. At that time he would not.

Let me go further. In his prepublication article in I think the Home Companion, he confessed certain areas of vpid in his investigation of Sirhan's connections. In those areas I have some solid and rather interesting documentation. So, I wrote him and offered it to him and suggested there might be other areas in which help could be provided him. He responded with a letter of thanks in which he said he'd look me up on his first trip east. He was east many time, but never a letter or a call-not even when he was in Aud's office. So, not for these reasons alone, I am suspicious of any late interest in serious critics, particularly after that West piece.

With regard to that, I have had no answer from the editor, no complaint from him.

I have had some slight experience with those who consider themselves great reports, go after the big story and fail to get it. You saw one with Huie. Something happens to them, even if they are good people, to begin with. I have not known one who remained a good person, not on this subject. So much of the press was initially poisoned this way, when those big names couldn't come up with anything by their own investigations and when it was there to be picked, much as ripe fruit from an overladen tree. I have never gone anywhere where this wasn't true. And even after poisoning by the big-named press.

So, this unsolicited word of caution. I can't think of anything good that skunk can now do. It is slight comfort to the offended nose to anticipate a promise that the tail will be lowered.

Best,